



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

No Longer A One-Team Tournament

The king of the dribble-derbies in our neighborhood taps-off in Raleigh this afternoon, and the affair is anything but the one-team affair that folks were predicting a couple of weeks ago when Carolina was rocking-along unbeatable.

The Tar Heels still wear the co-favorites mantle with State, those two deadlocking for the top spot in the regular season chase which accomplished nothing more than build-up three flips of the coin Sunday. . . . ACC members slugged it out for three months, and three-fourths of the group found themselves deadlocked, necessitating the flip to determine positions for tournament pairings. . . . All of which may seem like a strange way to do basketball business. . . . Why should the teams bash one another about and then decide positions on a coin flip?

Then after the three monthths of seemingly needless action and the flips for determining the positions or six clubs, the teams wound-up with the same partners they danced with in the first round of the tourney last March. . . . The ACC teams seem to be moving real fast, on a treadmill.

While Carolina and State hold the top spot in this thing in Raleigh, neither is assured of the title. . . . In the previous five years of the ACC post-season event, the number one team has copped two tournaments, a team tied for the top grabbed one crown, and the number four finisher won twice. . . . State's '55 team and Carolina's '57 outfit were the regular-season winners repeating the title-taking in the tournament. . . . State's '56 team tied Carolina for the season diadem, they won the tournament. . . . Fourth place champions were State in 1954, and Maryland last year, and, ironically, the regular-season leader both those years was Duke.

This is the third time in the last four years that arch rivals Carolina and State have tied for a past in the final seasonal standings. . . . They also shared the top-rung in '56, and deadlocked for second-place last year.

NC And State Pad National Prestige

Carolina and State have been the ACC cage leaders in the half-dozen years of its life, winning or sharing four of the six regular-season crowns, and copping four of the five tournaments to date. . . . But the two rivals have met only once in past ACC tournaments. . . . That was in '54 when State won 52-51. . . . And the top-drawer teams will not meet this time, unless both of them gain the finals.

If the Tar Heels and Wolfpack gain the championship game, a look at the past in the McGuire-Case rivalry shows the State mentor leading by a bare ten victories to nine for McGuire. . . . Carolina has won six of the last seven games with State, including the last four played on the Wolfpack's home floor in Raleigh.

The pair of ACC pace-setters also have been padding the national prestige of the conference this season, both having been No. One in the nation during the winter. . . . And did you realize that two of the four teams which have claimed the No. One berth have been the Big Four clubs? . . . Kentucky and Cincinnati have been the other national leaders.

Also, three of the four teams which have worn the No. One mantle have been bounced off the top by ACC teams. . . . Cincinnati was tops when State and Carolina handed Oscar's outfit consecutive lippings in the Dixie Classic. . . . Carolina topped State from the top after a two-day stand. . . . And Maryland knocked Carolina off after five-days of glory.

Maryland comes in as the darkhorse of the tournament, just as last year. . . . And the Terps trip this time reads like a carbon copy of last season's record. . . . This time, Maryland lost to all four teams down on "Tobacco Road", but, in turn, whipped three of those same teams at College Park, State being the lone winner at Maryland. . . . Last year, the Terps lost three on Tobacco Road, and won three from the same foursome at home. . . . Then Maryland came back to cop the tournament, beating two of the Big Four teams (Duke and Carolina) enroute to the title. . . . Will the same brand of Maryland lightning strike two straight seasons?

Sophomore Crop Tabbed Best Ever

The current crop of sophomores in the Big Four has been tabbed the best-ever. . . . Doug Moe has been called by his coach, McGuire as "the greatest prospect I have ever seen, comparable to Tom Gola, the All-American at La Salle". . . . Case has echoed that about the lad he has to contend with for two more years, calling him the greatest prospect in the Big Four, and one of the best he has ever seen anywhere, anytime. . . . York Laresse gets the same treatment, tagged by McGuire as "One of the greatest shooters I have ever seen in basketball," and by Case: "One of basketball's greatest shooters. He does many things well. But when he gets the ball in his hands, Watch out."

Harold Bradley talks in superlatives about his sopho, too, particularly Howard Hurt, whom he calls "potentially the finest all-round player I have coached", and Carroll Younkinn of whom he says "is the best center I have coached at Duke and could become one of the great centers in Big Four history."

All of which seems to be one way of saying that we are assured of some top-flight basketball for the next couple of years.

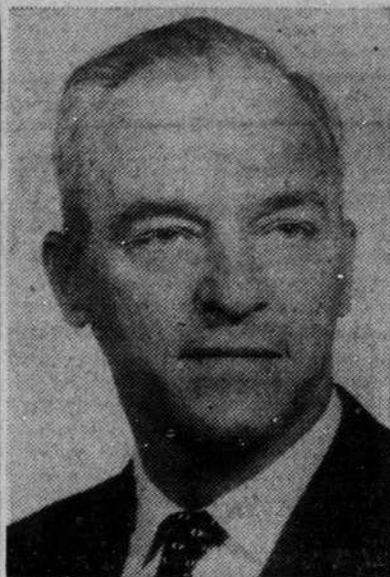
Duke and Wake Forest tip-off the affair this afternoon at 2, and the Deacons would like to make it their "Lucky seventh" or their "sweet sixteenth". . . . What's the angle?

The Deacs haven't won a game in the Big Four this season losing two games to each of the other members, and this one will be the seventh contest against a state rival. . . . And tracing farther back into the records, Wake Forest hasn't defeated a Big Four foe in the past two seasons, since Bones McKinney became head coach. . . . The Deacons lost nine to the state foes last year, plus the six this winter, and a total of 15 straight defeats. . . . No. 16 is coming up. . . . Sweet?

Legion Will Not Sponsor Jr. Team In '59

Team Cost Post \$2,000 Last Year; Hope To Return For '60 Season

By NEALE PATRICK



RAY CLINE

Shelby, Belmont Boys And Tri-Hi Girls Champions

Shelby and Belmont will share the Southwest Conference boys basketball crown for the 1959 season.

The two powers of the league tied for the top spot with identical 14-2 records on the season and will be acclaimed co-champions. Shelby won the flip for the top spot in the SWC for purposes of pairings in the Western Conference tournament now underway at Hickory.

Shelby was the defending champion, and the deadlock with Belmont, at least, snapped the Lions string of four consecutive major sports titles in the Southwest Conference. Shelby won all three sport crowns (football, basketball, and baseball) last school year, and copped the grid diadem last autumn.

Caroleen Tri-High's girls kept the lassies' title in Rutherford County, sweeping through an undefeated season with 16 straight wins to cop that divisional crown.

Forest City's defending champions finished in second place with a 12-2 mark.

Shelby and Belmont boys split their regular-season games, and each also lost a game to third place R. S. Central, which missed a chance to throw the race into a three-way tie by losing to county rival, Forest City.

FINAL SWC STANDINGS

Teams	W	L	Pct.
Shelby*	14	2	.875
Belmont	14	2	.875
R. S. Central	13	3	.812
Forest City	9	7	.562
Lincolnton	8	8	.500
Tri-High	6	10	.375
Cherryville	6	12	.333
Kings Mtn.	3	13	.187
Cliffside	1	15	.062

*Shelby won toss for No. One berth in tournament.

Teams	W	L	Pct.
Tri-High	10	0	1.000
Forest City	12	2	.750
Lincolnton	11	5	.687
R. S. Central	10	6	.625
Shelby	9	7	.562
Kings Mtn.	6	10	.375
Cherryville	5	11	.312
Cliffside	2	14	.125
Belmont	1	15	.062

Kings Mountain American Legion junior baseball struck out in the financial league in 1958 and will not operate during the 1959 season.

Commander Ray Cline of the Otis D. Green Post No. 155 of the Legion said that the officers and the executive committee voted not to sponsor a junior team this summer, but to initiate plans to rejoin the kid baseball program in the 1960 season.

"We went over the financial statement for last summer's team, showing that we spent nearly \$2,000 more than we took in at the gate and at the concession stand," said the commander, "and the committee agreed that we couldn't operate at that loss again."

Cline said that the committee and officers considered various ticket-selling promotions for the season, but none seemed suitable to finance the program.

"Unless we can land a co-sponsor for the program, or unless someone comes up with a bright idea that we haven't considered, we will be out of the American Legion junior baseball program this summer," said the Commander.

He pointed out, however, that the officers urged that steps be taken to return to the program in 1960, and the commander said that by this time next year, he hopes that about \$750 will be credited to an athletic fund.

"We are working out the details to build up that amount which will start the season in 1960, and certainly plan to return then," he said.

Reviewing the financial statement for '58, the Commander said that the total receipts for the 11 home games was \$455.41, which included the gate take and the proceeds from the concession stand.

Pointing to the other side of the ledger, Cline observed that the two necessities for the game, the lights and the umpires, totaled \$450 which virtually wiped-out the gate take.

Other major items of expense last season included equipment, meals for players after games, the coach and insurance.

The total expenses for the year went over the \$2,500 mark, \$2,000 over the receipts, according to Cline.

"Our athletic fund has been completely drained and we are not in shape to take a loss like that again this year, until we get a reserve built up," said Cline, "and we can't go on with junior baseball, although it is a fine program for boys of the community."

"We hate to drop out this summer. But we have no other choice."

Kings Mountain has been one of the charter members, so to speaking, of the junior program, having sponsored a team since 1945.

Kings Mountain Boasts Top Football Mark In SWC For Past Five Years

Kings Mountain boasts the best football record in the Southwest Conference over the past five seasons.

The Mountaineers' mark for the seasons which include two Southwest titles and two runner up posts is 20 wins, five losses and five ties, for a percentage of .750.

Shelby stands second in SWC football prestige for the five years, matching the Mountaineers' 20 victories. But the Lions have lost eight and tied two for a percentage of .700.

The pair of Cleveland County rivals are followed in the five-year football standings by Belmont, Forest City, Lincolnton, R. S. Central, and Cherryville in that order.

Records for the Conference football teams were released by W. C. Clary, secretary of the WNCCHA, in connection with the proposals which would regroup the teams in the far-flung Association. The proposed reorganization of leagues would be made on basis of enrollment, football prestige over the past five years, and travel distances.

Kings Mountain is listed in the proposed new league with other top-drawer football schools in the Southwest and Northwest Conferences.

Hickory and Wilkes Central of the NWC also have .750 football percentages over the past five years, although both have lost more games than the Mountaineers.

Judy Medlin And Chip Thorburn Scoring Leaders

Judy Medlin and Chip Thorburn led the point parade for the Kings Mountain High School basketball teams this season.

A senior, Judy scored 501 points in 20 games for a 25-point average in leading the local lassies in scoring for the second straight year and also in pacing the Southwest Conference girls division in points for the campaign.

Chip, a sophomore starter this year, captured the boys scoring title for the Mountaineers, with 217 points, an average of almost 11 per contest. The rangy newcomer to the varsity ranks turned on a scoring burst late in the season to win the point honors.

Thorburn replaces Keith Layton as the top individual scorer for the Mountaineers. The now departed southpaw tossed in 264 points to lead Kings Mountain last year.

As noted, Judy also was the Mountaineers high scorer last year, with 416 points.

The two scoring leaders, naturally, turned in the high individual games of the season. Judy topped the 40-point mark three times during the year, tops being 43 points against R. S. Central here. She scored 42 against Cherryville and 41 vs Belmont, both here.

Thorburn was the only member of the boys team to go over the 20-mark, scoring 25 against Grover and 22 against Lincolnton in successive games at mid-season.

Sophomores Marlene Weir (210 points) and Pat Gladden (143) trailed Medlin in the girls scoring race.

Don Fisher, the third high scorer last year with 139 points, was runner-up to Thorburn with 162 this year. Punch Parker gained third high honors with a late season surge, totalling 83 for the year.

BOYS			
Player	FG	FT	TP
Chip Thorburn	82	53	217
Don Fisher	67	28	162
Punch Parker	22	39	85
Bobby Goodson	29	24	82
James Robbs	29	15	73
Jerry Wright	26	8	60
Jimmy Blanton	18	8	44
Tommy Thomas	14	10	38
Arthur Allen	7	4	18
Perry Champion	4	1	9
Mike Ware	0	2	2
Tommy Watson	1	0	2
Totals	299	192	790

GIRLS			
Player	FG	FT	TP
Judy Medlin	181	139	501
Marlene Weir	89	32	210
Pat Gladden	63	17	143
Becky Ormand	23	7	53
Martha Raines	6	4	8
Peggy Black	4	0	8
Pucky Lewis	1	0	2
Totals	367	199	933

Other individual scores for the Gun Club were: T. W. Bryant 98, Fain Hambricht and C. D. Coats 97 each, and Buford Ellis 95.

Cpl. Bill Ivey led the Guard with a 97 score, followed by M/Sgt. William Clark and Cpl. Bobby Mabry with 96 scores. Cpl. Jerry Tucker 95, and M/Sgt. Preston Holt 92.

11 Lettermen On KM Baseball Team

Eleven lettermen were on hand as the Kings Mountain High School baseball team signaled the arrival of spring wit; the opening of full-scale diamond practice this week.

Coach Fred Withers and his aide, Bill Bates, counted veteran performers for all positions except two outfield posts among the 30 candidates. The group includes three lettermen pitchers, a pair of monogram winning catchers, five lettered infielders, and only one letter outfielder.

The vets head the delegation of hopefuls who have less than two weeks of drills before the opening game against Forest City here on Tuesday, March 17. The schedule lists 16 games, on a home-and-home basis with the other eight members of the Southwest Conference.

Biggest task for Coaches Withers and Bates will be to replace pitcher Keith Layton, who has been the mound mainstay here for three years, and leading hitter Ken Baity. Other departed seniors are catcher Bud Bunnard, third baseman Bill Ware, and outfielder Buddy Connor, all of whom started most games last year.

Leading pitchers on hand, with their last season's records in parenthesis are righthanders Jerry Wilson (2-0), Don Fisher (2-1) and Perry Champion (1-1). Other hurlers seeking starting roles are: righthanders Ken Wilson and James Martin, and southpaws Aundria Small, Chalmers Johnson and Paul Pittman.

Their battery mate will be selected from four candidates, two of whom won letters last year, Ronnie Ford and Ronnie Pearson. The husky Ford caught the final few games last spring, and Pearson was a regular outfielder at the end of the season and posted the top batting mark on the team, .429, although he didn't play enough to qualify as the bat leader.

First base is a toss-up between letterman Chip Thorburn and Dean Fleming, both of whom played briefly last spring.

Regular second sacker Don Tignor returns to that post which also has among its candidates, Frankie Franklin, Randall Haynes, Keith Hillard, and J. T. Jackson.

Punch Parker and James Robbs, who divided time at short-stop last season, return as lettermen, and have competition from Paul Hendricks and Roy Hastings, a newcomer to town.

Mike Ware is a letterman at third base after part-time duty last year. Bill Sellers is another promising hot cornerman.

Tommy Thomas, a regular in the outfield or at third base, is the lone returning letterman to the outfield this trip. Other hopefuls are Jerry Adams, Larry Pearson, and Jimmy Rickard, all on the squad last year, and Larry Smith, a soph.

Robbs and Thomas will be delayed in their drills by broken bones suffered in basketball. Robbs has two broken toes and Thomas a broken finger.

Wilson just arrived back in Kings Mountain only a week or ten days ago following a session in the Nicaraguan Winter League. The local diamond product managed the Cinco Estrellas team to third place in the circuit in his first venture into the managerial ranks.

"I managed the team which is owned and controlled by the president of Nicaragua," related Wilson, "and, so I had to try to keep the generals and all the high governmental officials happy."

Nicaraguan League teams are allowed 14 native players and eight from the States, only two of the latter being AAA or major league players.

That limit on top-ranked players kept Wilson out of his own lineup much of the season.

"I played a total of 24 of the 60 games we play in the winter season," he recalled, "and hit .467 with seven home runs. And I played very little in the second half of the season after Marv Throneberry of the Yankees arrived. He was my second A.A.M. and I retired to bench-managing."

Wilson set a winter league record in one game in which he did play, driving home 13 runs in one contest.

He bashed two grand-slam homers, another round-tripper with two men on, and a bases-loaded single in a 10-inning game.

Despite his slugging and his big batting average, Wilson did not play enough games to qualify for the batting championship. He would have won in a walkaway if he could have played more games and maintained the pace.

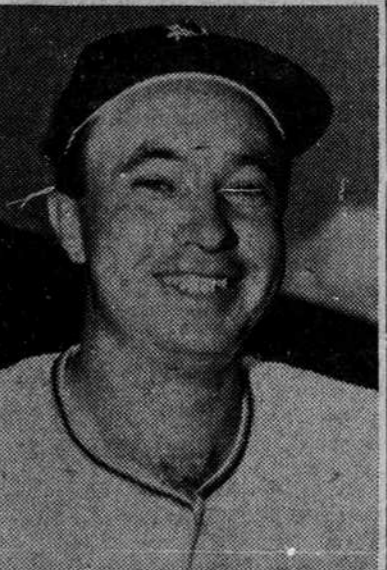
Now, the Kings Mountain resident is looking forward to his third year with the Denver Bears. Wilson is still the property of the New York Yankees, but has been assigned to Denver and is talking contract with them.

"We are still a few dollars apart, and I have sent back one contract," says Wilson. "But we will get together. I like to play in Denver."

Wilson is one of 14 Yankee chattels assigned to Denver, a former farm club of the world champions.

He is due to report to the Denver training base, near Phoenix, Arizona, on March 13th, and will drive out next week with Vance Pless, a Tennessee resident.

George Wilson Leaves Next Week For Third Season With Denver



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Saturday's victory also was the 102nd of Mrs. Powell's coaching career and was her final game in the coaching ranks.

Barbara Gamble, blonde forward who was voted the most outstanding girl player in the tournament, led the championship game scoring with 24 points.

Faye Bollin tossed in 20 and Norma Hamrick eight. Polly Crofts tallied 22 for Casar which lost three games this year, all to Bethware.

Casar copped its second straight boys division title in the Cleveland tournament, beating Waco, 50-31 in the finals. It was the 29th straight win of the year for Coach Bill Halburynton's club, and the 52nd straight win over county foes in the last two years.

The Bethware boys won consolation honors, defeating Mooresboro, 41-38, on Friday night. Luther Edwards scored 16 and Dean Burton 10 to lead the Bucs. Bethware beat Boiling Springs, 44-32, and was upset by Waco 46-40, in a double overtime, in earlier tournament games.

Methwars' girls beat Lattimore, 50-36, and Belwood, 40-39, enroute to the title.

The champion Bethware lassies also swept honors on the all-tournament team, placing five players on the 12-member squad. They were forwards Barbara Gamble and Faye Bollin, and guards Doris Cranford, Janet Hamrick, and Sarah Falls.

Other girls selected were: forwards Polly Crofts of Casar, Julia Beam of Belwood, Kay Willis of Lattimore, and Diane Brackett of Piedmont; and guards Joyce Gamit of Waco, Peggy Hoye of Casar, and Pat Navey of Lattimore.

Casar with Lloyd Wall and Ken Hamby, Waco with Harold Williams and Dale Hamrick, and Mooresboro with Cliff Dysart and Glenn Daves led the boys selection. Other members of the all tournament team were Dean Burton of Bethware, Jerry Miller of Piedmont, Marnard Ledford of Polkville, and Ken Willis of Belwood.

Forwards

KINGS MT. (45)	FG	FT	TP
Medlin	11	2	24
Webb	5	3	13
Gladden	4	0	8
Ormand	4	0	0
Raines	0	0	0
Totals	20	5	45

CAROLEEN (73)	FG	FT	TP
Campfield	5	1	11
Waters	12	3	27
Webb	11	5	27
Phillips	3	0	6
White	1	0	2
Guards - Burgess, Philbeck, Greenlee, Gibson, Wheeler, Hill.			
Score by periods:			
Kings Mt.	11	9	12 13-45

KINGS MT. (50)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Fisher	3	4.5	1	10
Thorburn	5	3.3	0	13
Goodson	2	2.3	4	6
Parker	4	7.8	4	15
Blanton	0	4.7	3	4
Allen	0	2.2	3	0
Totals	14	22-28	15	50

CAROLEEN (55)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Baynard	7	0.1	0	14
Francis	4	3.5	4	11
Shew	4	4.8	2	12
Taylor	0	0.0	1	0
Allen	2	2.2	4	6
Greene	3	5.6	4	11
Willis	0	0.0	0	0
Butler	0	1.1	1	1
Totals	20	15-23	16	55

KINGS MT.	11	9	16	14	50
Caroleen	8	18	18	11	55